

## **Governor's Volunteer Service Award Winners Named**

*(The Pilot---April 21, 2016)*

Ten Moore County residents representing six agencies in the county have been recognized by the state for their exemplary volunteer service.

The Governor's Volunteer Service Award is an annual recognition in which nominations are solicited across the state for volunteers and a paid volunteer director, with up to 10 individuals or agencies chosen from each county.

For Moore County, volunteers from the Convention and Visitors Bureau, Habitat for Humanity, FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital, the Senior Enrichment Center, the Moore County Literacy Council and the Coalition for Human Care were represented.

Two of the 10, Cos Barnes and Janet Gillis, each volunteer with the Sandhills/Moore Coalition for Human Care, one of a number of nonprofits that partner with the Moore County Retired and Senior Volunteer Program, or RSVP.

"I am pleased to announce that two of our Coalition volunteers, Cos Barnes and Janet Gillis, have been awarded a 2016 Governor's Volunteer Service Award for Moore County," said Coalition Executive Director Barrett Walker.

"Cos volunteers at The Coalition Resale Shops and Janet chairs the Client Clothing Distribution at the Gilmore Building. "Both are great ladies, and each was nominated by their peers. Having them nominated by fellow volunteers is a very meaningful way to be chosen."

The Coalition utilizes 300 volunteers in their effort to "meet the emergency needs of our Moore County neighbors" by providing food, clothing and financial resources.

The nominations come from one of 13 categories that include individual, family, group/team, youth, senior, perseverance, national service, and mentor. Other categories include faith-based, disaster, corporate/business, lifetime achievement and paid director of volunteers.

RSVP Executive Director Tommy Deese said this year's group of volunteers is "exceptional."

"This year's recipients are some of the strongest fields I've seen in my five years in this position," he said. "That is saying a lot when you consider the incredible volunteers that have been recognized in previous years."

The award ceremony will take place at the Historic Courthouse in Carthage on April 19 at 5:30 p.m. during a regular meeting of the Moore County Board of Commissioners.

Other award winners from Moore County include Habitat for Humanity volunteers Dick and Joan Wolstenholme, Mary Cunningham and Marilyn Otto; Irene Sauter of the Convention and Visitors Bureau; Sarah Ross of FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital; Kitty Fehr of the Moore County Senior Enrichment Center; and Marilyn Powers of the Moore County Literacy Council.

Each of this year's honorees will receive a signed congratulatory letter and certificate from Gov. Pat McCrory.

The Governor's Volunteer Service Award is administered by the North Carolina Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service to "improve lives, strengthen communities, and foster civic engagement" in the state.



Pictured above: Marilyn Powers, Moore County Literacy Council Volunteer Tutor